GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – PR&RD Department – Tampering of M.Books under Food for Work Programme in Balijapeta (M), Vizianagaram District – Disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sri U.Y.Ratnam, the then MEO/AEE, MPP, Balijapeta Mandal, Vizianagaram District – Written Statement of Defence submitted – Inquiry conducted – Punishment imposed - Orders, dt.11.10.2022 of Hon'ble High Court of AP in WP.No.7493 of 2022 - Fresh Inquiry conducted – Charge proved – Punishment of reduction to a lower stage in the timescale of pay for (3) increments permanently under Rule 9(vii) of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 besides recovery of misappropriated amount of Rs.5,06,301/- in lump sum from the Charged officer at bank rate +2% as per Article 300 of A.P. Finance Code, Volume-I – Orders – Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 162 **Dated: 17-03-2025**
Read the following:-

1. Letter No.Vig(1)/50341/05, dt.28.05.2012 of ENC, PR, Hyderabad.
2. G.O.Rt.No.446, PR&RD (Vig.I) Dept., dt.05.05.2015.
3. Sri U.Y.Ratnam, the then MEO/AEE, Balijapeta (M), Vizianagaram District, Representation, dt.02.02.2016.
4. G.O.Rt.No.271, PR&RD (Vig.I) Dept., dt.17.03.2016.
5. Lr.No.Vig.I(1)/50341/2005, dt.24.07.2017 of ENC, PR, Vijayawada along with inquiry report of SE, PR, Vizianagaram, dt.20.02.2017.
6. G.O.Rt.No.686, PR&RD (Vig.I) Dept., dt.27.12.2021.
7. Proc.No.A1/UVR/2013, dated 08.03.2022 of SE, PR, Eluru.
8. Orders, dt.11.10.2022 of Hon'ble High Court of AP in WP No.7493 of 2022.
9. G.O.Rt.No.68, PR&RD (Vig.I) Dept., dt.17.02.2023.
10. Lr.No.51/Allegations/2023, dt.19.03.2024 of SE, PR, Vizianagaram (Inquiry Report).
11. Govt.Memo No.13275/VIG.I/2012-24, dt.14.05.2024.
12. Sri U.Y.Ratnam, the then MEO/AEE, Balijapeta Mandal, Vizianagaram District, Explanation, dt.16.08.2024.

*****

ORDER:

Whereas, in the reference 1st read above, the Engineer-in-Chief, PR, AP furnished report regarding tampering of M.Books and misappropriation of Government funds under Food For Work programme in Balajipeta Mandal, Vizianagaram District. Accordingly, the Government have initiated disciplinary action against Sri U.Y.Ratnam, the then MEO/AEE, MPP, Balijapeta Mandal, Vizianagaram District along with two others under Rule 20 of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 and the following charge has been framed against Sri U.Y.Ratnam, the then MEO/AEE vide reference 2nd read above.

Charge:

That Sri U.Y.Ratnam, while working as Mandal Engineering Officer, Balijapeta of Vizianagaram District has committed certain grave irregularities in the works taken up under FFWP and tampered the recordings in M.Books by adding/recording extra measurements in between specified lines of M.Books with different inks and violated Codal Rules. Thus, he had not performed his legitimate duties and misutilized his official position and caused financial loss of an amount of Rs.5,06,301/- to the State exchequer.

(P.T.O)

2. As the Written Statement of Defence of Charged officer is not convincing, the Government, in the reference 4th read above, have appointed the Superintending Engineer, PR, Vizianagaram as the Inquiry Officer to conduct inquiry into the charges framed against the Charged officer. On receipt of the Inquiry Report from the Inquiry Officer, wherein the charge against Charged officer is held as proved, the Govt. have imposed a penalty of withholding of three (3) annual grade increments with cumulative effect against Sri U.Y.Ratnam, the then M.E.O./A.E.E, Balijapeta Mandal, Vizianagaram District under Rule 9(vi) of A.P.C.S. (CC&A) Rules, 1991, besides recovery of Rs.5,06,301/- in lump sum from him at Bank Rate +2% as per Article 300 of A.P.Financial Code (Vol.I) vide reference 6th read above.

3. Whereas in the reference 7th read above, the Superintending Engineer, PR, Eluru has issued proceedings for implementation of the orders issued by the Government vide reference 6th read above. Aggrieved by the same, the Charged officer has filed a WP No.7493 of 2022 before the Hon'ble High Court of A.P. and the Hon’ble High Court of AP has set aside the proceedings of the SE, PR, Eluru and ordered to conduct elaborate inquiry within a period of eight (08) weeks.

4. Keeping in view of the orders of Hon'ble High Court of A.P., the Government vide reference 9th read above, have appointed the earlier Inquiry Officer i.e., Superintending Engineer, PR, Vizianagaram (appointed by designation) as Inquiring Authority to conduct fresh inquiry against Sri U.Yesu Ratnam, former MEO, Balijapeta Mandal, as per the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 and as pointed out by the Hon'ble High Court of A.P.

5. In the reference 10th read above, the Superintending Engineer, PR, Vizianagaram & Inquiring Authority, who conducted the inquiry afresh, has submitted the Inquiry Report holding that the charge framed against the Charged officer is proved. The Inquiry Report was communicated to the Charged Officer vide reference 11th read above and the Charged officer has submitted his explanation vide reference 12th read above. The Charged officer has reiterated his earlier contentions and requested to drop further action.

6. Government after careful examination of the matter, have decided to impose a punishment of reduction to a lower stage in the time-scale of pay for (3) increments permanently under Rule 9(vii) of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 besides recovery of misappropriated amount of Rs.5,06,301/- in lump sum from the Charged officer at bank rate of +2% as per Article 300 of A.P.Finance Code (Vol.I) against Sri U.Y.Ratnam, the then MEO/AEE, MPP, Balijapeta Mandal, Vizianagaram District, which is equivalent punishment concurred by the APPSC earlier in terms of G.O.Rt.No.686, PR&RD (Vig.I) Dept., dt.27.12.2021.

7. Accordingly, Government hereby impose punishment of reduction to a lower stage in the time-scale of pay for (3) increments permanently under Rule 9(vii) of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 besides recovery of misappropriated amount of Rs.5,06,301/- in lump sum from the Charged officer at bank rate of +2% as per Article 300 of A.P.Finance Code (Vol.I) against Sri U.Y.Ratnam, the then MEO/AEE, MPP, Balijapeta Mandal, Vizianagaram District for the said irregularities.

(Continued on Page.3)

8. The Engineer-in-Chef, Panchayat Raj, A.P, Vijayawada is directed to take necessary action to implement the punishment and recover the amount accordingly from the charged officer and furnish the action taken report to the Government.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri U.Y.Ratnam, the then M.E.O./A.E.E, Balijapeta Mandal, Vizianagaram District **through** the Engineer in Chief, Panchayat Raj, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Engineer in Chief, Panchayat Raj, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada. (with a request to serve the order on the a individual and furnish the dated acknowledgment copy)

Copy to:
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, Velagapudi.
The Secretary, A.P.Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The P.R. & R.D (Estt.I) Department.
The OSD to Hon'ble Minister for PR&RD,
The P.S to Prl. Secretary to Governmentt, PR&RD Dept.
Sf/Sc

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER